

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAN JO 01140 201610Z

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ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9675

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TAGS: OAS CS

SUBJECT: FONMIN FACIO'S PROPOSALS ON OAS GA

REF: SAN JOSE 1103

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF FACIO'S LETTER TO SECRETARY
DATED MARCH 13, 1975.

2. BEGIN QUOTE: DEAR COLLEAGUE: THE WORK OF THE
ORDINARY GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE OAS BEGINS EACH YEAR
WITH A SO CALLED "GENERAL DEBATE". IN PRACTICE, WHAT
SHOULD BE AN EXCHANGE OF OPINIONS ABOUT THE ITEMS OF
THE AGENDA, HAS BECOME THE READING OF A SPEECH, WHICH EACH
HEAD OF DELEGATION DELIVERS BEFORE HIS COLLEAGUES, IN
WHICH SOME OPINIONS ARE GENERALLY INCLUDED ABOUT SUBJECTS
OF DIRECT INTEREST FOR THE ASSEMBLY, BUT ALSO EXTENSIVE
PARAGRAPH ABOUT SUBJECTS WHICH ARE RATHER FOR DOMESTIC
CONSUMPTION.

3. THIS RHETORICAL EXERCISE USUALLY TAKES UP THE FIRST
WEEK OF THE MEETINGS OF EACH ASSEMBLY. WHEN THE WORK
OF THE COMMITTEES BEGINS, AND THE IMPORTANT RESOLU-
TIONS ABOUT THE INTER-AMERICAN PROBLEMS MUST BE TAKEN,
MOST OF THE FOREIGN MINISTERS HAVE RETURNED TO THEIR
COUNTRIES. THUS, THE IMMEDIATE DIRECTION OF THE
ASSEMBLY REMAINS IN THE HANDS OF THE SAME REPRESENTATIVES

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PAGE 02 SAN JO 01140 201610Z

WHO CONSTITUTE THE PERMANENT COUNCIL.

4. FOR THIS REASON, I FAVOR AN INITIATIVE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF PANAMA, TO THE EFFECT THAT, IN THE NEXT ASSEMBLY, THE GENERAL DEBATE BE ELIMINATED. WITHOUT SHARING IN ALL ASPECTS THE PANAMANIAN PROPOSITION ABOUT THE REORGANIZATION OF THE OAS, I WOULD LIKE TO OBTAIN THE SUPPORT OF YOUR EXCELLENCY, IN ORDER TO TRY AS A TEXT THE FOLLOWING PLAN IN THE NEXT GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

(1) THE FOREIGN MINISTERS WHO SO DESIRE, WILL PRESENT IN WRITING A STATEMENT OF THEIR POSITIONS ABOUT THE ITEMS OF THE AGENDA, WHICH THEY MAY CONSIDER OF INTEREST. THESE STATEMENTS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED TO THE SECRETARIAT OF THE OAS EIGHT DAYS BEFORE THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETS.

(2). SUCH STATEMENTS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED BY THE SECRETARIAT TO ALL DELEGATIONS, AS BASIC DOCUMENTS OF THE ASSEMBLY;

(3). THE HEAD OF DELEGATIONS WOULD AGREE NOT TO DELIVER FORMAL SPEECHES DURING THE SO CALLED GENERAL DEBATE;

(4). IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE INAUGURAL SESSION AND THE ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE ASSEMBLY, THE HEADS OF DELEGATIONS WILL HAVE INFORMAL SESSIONS, TO DIALOGUE EXTENSIVELY ON THE MAIN TOPICS OF THE AGENDA;

(5). THIS INFORMAL DIALOGUE SHOULD NOT TAKE MORE THAN THE FIRST THREE DAYS OF THE PERIOD OF SESSIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

5. IF THIS PLAN WERE PUT INTO EFFECT, I BELIEVE WE WOULD ACHIEVE THREE IMPORTANT OBJECTIVES:

(A). THE AMOUNT OF DAYS OF SESSIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY WOULD BE SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCED, THUS SAVING TIME AND MONEY;
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PAGE 03 SAN JO 01140 201610Z

(B). THE FOREIGN MINISTERS WOULD HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE DIRECTLY IN THE DECISION MAKING PROCESS REGARDING THE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES OF THE ASSEMBLY;

(C). THE SYSTEM OF INFORMAL, HONEST AND OPEN EX-

CHANGE OF OPINIONS AMONG THE AMERICAN FOREIGN MINISTERS, THAT WAS SUCCESSFULLY PUT INTO PRACTICE AT THE MEETINGS OF THE NEW DIALOGUE HELD IN TLATELOLCO AND IN WASHINGTON, DURING THE MONTHS OF FEBRUARY AND APRIL OF 1974, WOULD THUS BE INSTITUTIONALIZED WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE OAS.

6. IN CASE YOUR EXCELLENCY AGREES WITH THE IDEAS CONTAINED IN THIS PLAN, I RESPECTFULLY ASK YOU TO LET ME KNOW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE ABOUT THIS MATTER. ON THE SAME HYPOTHESIS, I ASK YOU TO INSTRUCT YOUR REPRESENTATIVE BEFORE THE PERMANENT COUNCIL OF THE OAS, IN ORDER THAT THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY PROCEEDS ACCORDINGLY.

7. I HAVE FORWARDED A SIMILAR LETTER TO EACH ONE OF THE FOREIGN MINISTERS OF THE MEMBER STATES OF THE OAS.

8. I AVAIL MYSELF OF THIS OPPORTUNITY TO ONCE AGAIN EXTEND TO YOUR EXCELLENCY THE ASSURANCES OF MY HIGHEST ESTEEM AND CONSIDERATION. GONZALO J. FACIO, MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF COSTA RICA. END QUOTE.
TODMAN

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